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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/618,719	07/15/2003	Chao-Ming Huang	33144-190974	7403
26694	7590	03/19/2004	EXAMINER	
VENABLE, BAETJER, HOWARD AND CIVILETTI, LLP P.O. BOX 34385 WASHINGTON, DC 20043-9998			GALL, LLOYD A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3676	

DATE MAILED: 03/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/618,719	HUANG ET AL.
	Examiner Lloyd A. Gall	Art Unit 3676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 15 July 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: ____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: ____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 3, line 23, "12" should read --11--. On page 11, line 2, a period should follow the second occurrence of "door".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 2 is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 9, line 6, "hole" should be replaced with --opening--. Appropriate correction is required.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 4, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicants' admitted prior art in view of Rymer.

Figs. 9-11 of applicants' prior art figures teaches a cylinder 90 in a lock hole 971, a core 91, a flat finger 911, threaded holes in the cylinder 90 which receive the first screws 932, a latch 92, an inner cover 93 having holes to receive the first screws 932, a first central opening (unlabeled) in the inner cover 93 to receive the flat finger 911, an outer cover 94 with a second central opening 941 to receive the flat finger 911, and sink holes 942 in the outer cover to receive second screws 943, a knob 95 receiving an unlabeled hollow shaft within a shaft hole thereof, which hollow shaft receives the flat finger therein. Rymer teaches a knob 4, 14 having a resilient member 24 mounted within a

ringed recess thereof as seen in fig. 1 and positioned against the outer cover 23, which outer cover conceals an inner cover 22, and a hollow polygonal shaft 3 received in the polygonal shaft hole of the knob 4, 14. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the holes 933 of fig. 9 of applicants' admitted prior art to include sink holes, in view of the teaching 942 of fig. 9 of applicants' admitted prior art, the motivation being to flushly receive a screw head therein, as a space savings measure. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize a resilient member between the outer cover 94 and a ringed recess of the knob of applicants' admitted prior art, as well as to modify the shaft hole of the knob 95 to be polygonal in shape to conform to a polygonal hollow shaft, in view of the teaching of Rymer, the motivation being to aid in knob removal when the knob fastening components are removed, and to transfer torque from the knob to the hollow shaft to the flat finger.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the modified applicants' admitted prior art as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Lin et al (273).

As seen in fig. 17, Lin et al teaches a guard plate 26 provided inside an inner cover 23, and an outer cover 225. The guard plate includes a flange (labeled as 264 in fig. 16) which is received in the lock hole, and an edge 263 in fig. 17 is abutting a rim 233 of the inner cover 23, and a central opening 261 in the guard plate. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize a guard plate in the lock hole of applicants' admitted prior art inside of the inner cover, in

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view of the teaching of Lin et al, the motivation being to further reinforce the mounting of the components on the knob side of the door.

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the modified applicants' admitted prior art as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Ellingson (458).

Ellingson teaches an inner cover 7 having lugs 13 received in apertures 12 of an outer cover 11 around central openings (unlabeled) of the covers. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide lugs on the inner cover and apertures in the outer cover of applicants' admitted prior art, in view of the teaching of Ellingson, the motivation being to strengthen the connection therebetween.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the modified applicants' admitted prior art as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Rumberg (186).

Rumberg teaches a radial threaded aperture to receive a screw at 24 to fasten the knob 23 to the shaft 22. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a radial connecting screw between the knob and hollow shaft of applicants' admitted prior art, in view of the teaching of Rumberg, the motivation being to provide a secure connection therebetween, and to serve as the knob fastening components referred to in the penultimate line of the above rejections of claims 1, 4, 7 and 8.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the modified applicants' admitted prior art as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Gates.

Gates teaches a sleeve 22 outside the front end of a shaft 19 which also includes an opening for the shaft 19 and flat finger 20 to extend therethrough. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a sleeve outside the hollow shaft of applicants' admitted prior art, in view of the teaching of Gates, the motivation being to further strengthen the hollow shaft to optimize its durability.

Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

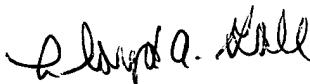
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lloyd A. Gall whose telephone number is 703-308-0828. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on 703-308-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LG L G
March 16, 2004



Lloyd A. Gai
Primary Examiner